

CPEC Presentation – April 8, 2002

**UC Merced
Academic Planning:
a work in progress**



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Academic Planning Issues: Establishing a Research University

Planning for a high-quality
educational experience

- Developing the curriculum
- Planning the undergraduate experience
- Library of the 21st Century as the information commons



Developing the Curriculum: Academic Program

Campus academic planning is based on the goal of developing a distinguished general campus of the University of California.



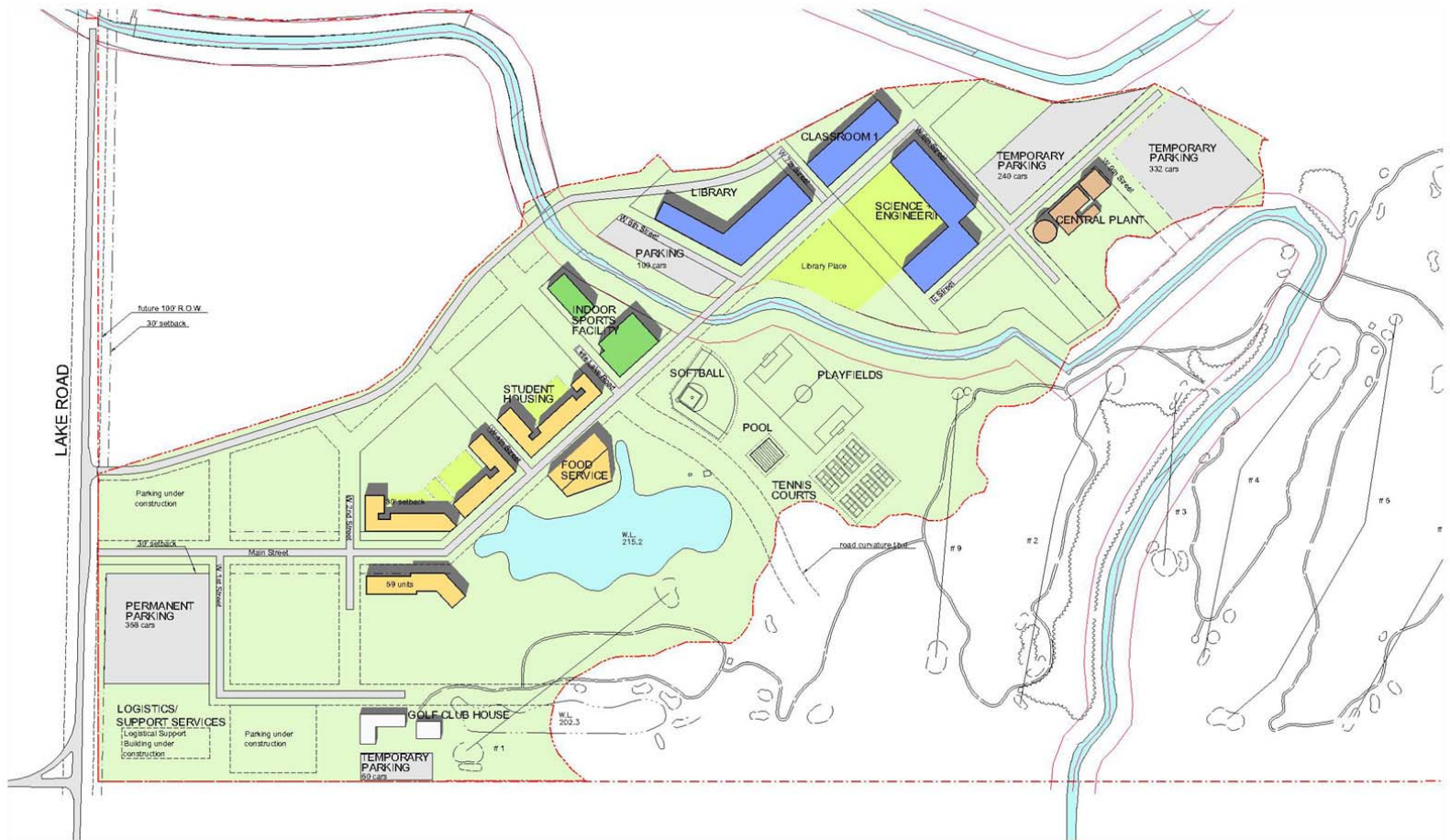
UC Merced

Interdisciplinary Focus

Curriculum will be organized to encourage collaboration across traditional disciplinary lines and also will be built around core fields, especially those in high demand elsewhere in the University.



The plan for Phase One



UC Merced

Divisional Structure

The campus will emphasize links among disciplines and keep barriers between academic areas low. Three academic divisions, each headed by a dean, will be formed as follows.

- **Division of Natural Sciences**
- **Division of Engineering**
- **Division of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts**
- *School of Management*



Undergraduate Majors-2004

- Computer Science and Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Biological Sciences
- Earth Systems Sciences
- World Cultures and History
- Social and Behavioral Sciences



Principles for Undergraduate Program Planning

- Balance:
 - Programs with high UC student demand
 - Programs especially pertinent to the San Joaquin Valley region
- Systems focus: programs emphasizing connections between disciplines
- Common freshman core curriculum in science and engineering to facilitate student choice in majors and careers



Graduate Programs-2004

- Computer and Information Systems--
M.S./Ph.D.
- Environmental Systems--*M.S./Ph.D.*
- Systems Biology--*M.S./Ph.D.*
- World Cultures--*M.A./Ph.D.*
- Social and Behavioral Sciences--
M.S./Ph.D.



Principles for Graduate Program Planning

- Systems focus to emphasize breadth and connections between disciplines
- *Graduate Group* composed of faculty from multiple disciplines
- Few graduate programs in early years while undergraduate programs increase
- Research institutes leverage cross-disciplinary research



Planning the Undergraduate Experience

Proposal for a college system

- Independent of student residential location
- Coordinates general education with the divisions
- Incorporates freshmen cohorts at Fresno and Bakersfield (and Modesto) Centers
- Four years of student connections: may include freshman seminars, undergraduate research, internships, capstone experiences...



Integration of Transfer Students into UC Merced

- Articulation agreements with San Joaquin Valley CCC's
- Concurrent admission program with Valley CCC's
 - Pilot with four Valley CCC's underwritten by *Ford Foundation* and *Office of the President*
 - Distance technology will support program
- UCM college system being planned to assure full transfer student participation



UC Merced

Reflecting the Diversity of the World in which We Live

- Commitment to diverse student body
Special goal: outreach programming to improve UC readiness of San Joaquin Valley students
- Commitment to diverse faculty and academic staff: proactive recruitment of diverse candidates for openings



The Library of the 21st Century: the Information Commons

- Library as vibrant place for learning and collaboration
- Access to information:
 - Physical and digital packages
 - “One UC, one library:” 30M volumes on day one
 - California Digital Library for scholarly journals







***Thank
you!***